

Application No.: 10/083,684
Art Unit: 2826

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 020254

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14, 16-19, 21-23, 25 and 26 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14, 16-19, 21-23, 25 and 26 are allowed. Claims 27, 29, 31 and 32 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 27 and 31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshiyuki et al. (6,906,548) further in view of Talwar et al. Claims 29 and 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshiyuki et al. (6,906,548) in view of Rodder (6,093,610) further in view of Talwar et al. (5,908,307). As noted above, applicants have cancelled claims 27, 29, 31 and 32 herein. Wherefore, the rejection is now moot.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date. Further, applicants note that no substantive changes have been made to the claims. The claims have only been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. Wherefore, no further search or consideration by the Office is warranted.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

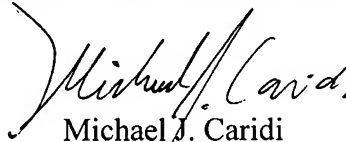
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Caridi", is written over the printed name and title.

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MJC/ttw